

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 24, beginning with “In addition to model-based arguments”, as follows:

“In addition to model-based arguments, performance assessment was performed using two sets of real polypeptide spectra. These came from a 48 rat liver sample set subject to four toxicological conditions and a 199 ovarian cancer serum samples from diseased individuals and a control group_ (provided by NIH/FDA Clinical Proteomics Program Databank Homepage”, <http://clinicalproteomics.steem.com>, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.)